

12.305 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS AND CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND EXPLOSIVES THREAT RESPONSE

Reference:

Procedure 12.145, Critical Incident Response Plan
Procedure 12.170, Civil Disturbance Operation Procedure

Definitions:

Terrorism - the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.

Terrorist Incident - a violent act, or an act dangerous to human life, in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives.

Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG) - formed as a regional cooperative effort among public safety and health agencies throughout Greater Cincinnati area as a means to combat potential terrorist activity. TEWG takes proactive measures in order to detect, prevent, deter, or respond to a terrorist act, or the documented threat of such an act, and minimize the effects in the event a terrorist act occurs.

Purpose:

To guide Department personnel in the event of:

- Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Incidents
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) incidents

To provide for the integration of Fire Department, local, state, and federal agencies with Department personnel.

Policy:

The first priority at the scene of a HAZMAT or CBRNE incident is to prevent and/or limit exposure to first responders and the public. First responding officers should be aware of suspicious factors that may indicate a possible terrorist incident. Officers should immediately notify PCS and their District OIC of a suspected terrorist threat or incident. The District OIC will implement the Seven Critical Tasks during a critical incident.

The Department has issued each officer Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that follows the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Division standards for first responder CBRNE equipment. This equipment is meant for escape from contaminated areas only and not as protection for remaining in contaminated areas. Officers should be aware of the limitations of PPE.

The Department will handle and/or disseminate Homeland Security issues through the Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG). TEWG is a network integrating law enforcement, fire, health, and emergency management facilities. The Department is also equipped with a SWAT Terror Response Team, which should be utilized in the event of a terrorist incident.

Fire Department personnel have the primary role and authority in all HAZMAT and CBRNE incidents. Upon arrival, Fire Department personnel will establish operational zones and determine the need for outside agency involvement other than law enforcement.

Operational zones during CBRNE incidents:

A. Green Zone

1. Indicates areas of the City not contaminated by CBRNE materials.
2. Normal activities will continue within this zone, although operations may be modified as the City-wide situation escalates and various criteria are implemented.

B. Yellow Zone

1. Indicates area immediately surrounding the contaminated area and deemed likely to become contaminated.
2. Police Department personnel will not enter this zone until the zone has been cleared by a Fire Department monitoring team.
3. Closely monitor personnel safety operations with caution being exercised during all activities.

C. Red Zone

1. Indicates areas where CBRNE contamination is known to be occurring.
2. Police Department personnel will not enter this zone until the zone is cleared by a Fire Department monitoring team.

Information:

Incidents involving hazardous materials and threats to disseminate biological agents have occurred throughout the United States.

Many bacteria, fungi, viruses, rickettsial agents, and toxins are possible biological warfare agents. Despite the different characteristics of these organisms, viruses, and toxins, biological agents used as weapons share some common characteristics. They can be dispersed in aerosols of particle size one to five micrometers (microns), which may remain suspended (in certain weather conditions) for hours and if inhaled will penetrate deep into the lungs of victims.

Particles larger than five microns tend to be filtered out in the upper airway. The aerosols may be delivered by simple technology such as industrial sprayers with nozzles modified to generate the smaller particle size. Other possible routes of exposure for biological agents include oral, intentional contamination of food and water, and through skin contact. In general, these other routes of exposure are considered less dangerous than the respiratory route. Diseases produced by the offensive use of biological agents could be lethal and/or disabling.

Hazardous materials incidents encompass a wide variety of potential situations including fires, spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and similar events. Hazards may include toxicity, flammability, radiological hazards, corrosives, explosives, health hazards, chemical reactions, or a combination of any of these hazards.

The Homeland Security Advisory System is a means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to federal, state, and local authorities and to the American people. The system features five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. The higher the Threat Condition, the greater the risk of a terrorist attack. Risk includes both the probability of an attack occurring and its potential gravity. The system can place specific geographic regions or industry sectors on a higher alert status than other regions or industries, based on specific threat information. The Department will increase or decrease responsibilities in response to the posted Threat Condition. Threat Conditions are assigned by the Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security.

Threat Conditions:

- **Severe** risk of terrorist attack (**RED**). Department may close events/venues, close streets and parking around Critical Infrastructure Sites, and increase security at sites/institutions.
- **High** risk of terrorist attack (**ORANGE**). Department will monitor Critical Infrastructure Sites, restrict parking on streets and in garages, and verify all Department deliveries.
- **Elevated** risk of terrorist attack (**YELLOW**). Department will ensure all government buildings are secure.
- **Guarded** risk of terrorist attack (**BLUE**). No changes for the Department.
- **Low** risk of terrorist attack (**Green**). No changes for the Department.

Procedure:

- A. Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Incidents
 - 1. Indications of hazardous materials may include:
 - a. Markings or placards/labels on the exterior of the vehicle.
 - b. Exposed container showing HAZMAT markings or labels.
 - 2. Police Officer Responsibilities at a HAZMAT Scene:
 - a. Treat the area as a crime scene and immediately contact Police Communications Section (PCS) to inform them of the situation.
 - b. If a HAZMAT or CBRNE material is suspected to be involved, toxic fumes may also result. Officers will immediately respond to an area upwind and uphill from the location, if possible, and evaluate the need to wear PPE.
 - c. Notify bystanders to evacuate the area downwind from the location. Use the police vehicle's public address system if needed. (Shut off the ventilation system in the car from outside air).
 - 1) When evacuating the area, officers need to be aware of possible secondary device locations.
 - d. If a gas cloud, leaking liquid, or a fire is present, approach the immediate scene only if absolutely necessary and only from the upwind and uphill side.
 - e. Police officers will not examine or otherwise disturb the material until the zone is cleared by a Fire Department monitoring team.
 - 3. PCS will:
 - a. Inform Fire dispatch that suspected HAZMAT or CBRNE material has been found and request the Fire Department dispatch necessary equipment.
 - b. Dispatch a district supervisor to the scene.
 - c. Notify a Tactical Planning supervisor of potential incident.
 - 4. The supervisor will:
 - a. Respond to the scene and meet with the ranking Fire Department supervisor, evaluate the situation, and determine the seriousness of the incident and a course of action.

- 1) Request PCS dispatch the district Officer-in-Charge (OIC) and a Tactical Planning Unit supervisor to the scene for serious incidents.
 - b. Brief the district OIC and Tactical Planning Unit supervisor upon their arrival.
 - c. With the assistance of the Tactical Planning Unit, coordinate all Police Department activities with those of the Fire Department and any other local, state, or federal agencies while keeping PCS informed of the situation.
 - 1) During the isolation stage of a HAZMAT incident, the Police Department's main function will be traffic control and preventing unauthorized persons from entering the hazard area.
 - 2) All traffic posts will be set within the Green Zone area unless otherwise determined by a supervisor.
 - 3) Any officer experiencing a physical reaction, such as difficulty breathing, light-headedness, etc., will immediately leave the area and seek medical assistance. Notify the Fire Department of the medical condition.
 - d. Submit a Form 17, through channels, to the Police Chief describing the incident and the actions taken. Send a copy of the form to Tactical Planning/TEWG.
5. Fire Department Responsibilities:
- a. The Fire Department OIC will be the Incident Commander and will determine the evacuation of personnel, the blocking of areas, and the retention of people who may have been affected by hazardous materials. The Police Department will provide any necessary assistance.
 - b. The Fire Department will hand over only properly packed, safe material to Police Department personnel.
 - c. If the Police Department is requested to handle the material, Police Department personnel will:
 - 1) Make a notation on the Form 330, Property Receipt, and the evidence envelope/bag "Hazardous Material Packaged By:" (place name of Fire Department officer releasing the property).
 - 2) Place a "Biohazard" sticker on the evidence envelope/bag and seal with evidence tape. Date and initial the seal to maintain chain of custody.

- 3) Process the evidence through the Court Property Unit. Include an Evidence Submission Sheet with property requiring analysis.
 - 4) Court Property Unit will transport the evidence for analysis according to their Standard Operating Procedures.
 - a) Court Property Unit personnel will contact the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (614) 722-7221 for instructions prior to any sample delivery.
 - b) The evidence will be transported by Court Property Unit to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory, 8995 East Main Street, Bldg 22, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, on an as-needed basis.
 - 5) Evidence and analysis records will be maintained at Court Property Unit.
- d. As soon as it has been ascertained that HAZMAT or CBRNE materials are involved, the ranking on-scene Fire Department officer will establish the operational zones as follows:
- 1) Red Zone
 - a) Entry limited to Fire personnel who are wearing adequate protection.
 - 2) Yellow Zone
 - a) Triage and transfer area.
 - b) Contaminated civilian assembly area.
 - c) Decontamination area.
 - 3) Green Zone
 - a) Command Posts and staging areas.
- e. Notify all local, state, and federal agencies that are needed to assist in the incident, including the City Health Commissioner.
6. The City Health Department will:
- a. Upon arrival, assume responsibility for the disposition of persons being retained or others who have been affected.
 - b. After the initial emergency period has expired, assume responsibility for the supervision of the decontamination of persons involved and not otherwise disposed of and the affected area including buildings.

- c. Make any statements as to the seriousness of the situation and any other acts which are necessary for public dissemination. Any persons making the initial response to the call will limit statements only to the fact that hazardous materials are involved.
- B. Biological Threats, i.e., Anthrax Threats
 - 1. Immediately advise PCS after becoming aware of a biological threat.
 - 2. PCS will:
 - a. Advise Fire dispatch of the incident and request they dispatch necessary personnel and equipment.
 - b. Dispatch four units and a supervisor to the scene.
 - 1) All officers will remain outside the affected building or area and shall not have any face to face contact with persons inside the affected building or area.
 - c. Notify a Tactical Planning Supervisor of potential incident.
 - 3. Police officer responsibilities:
 - a. Cordon off the affected building or area and establish a perimeter.
 - b. Restrict anyone from entering the affected area. Prevent anyone from having contact with any persons who are, or have been, inside the affected area.
 - c. Evaluate the need for PPE.
 - 4. Supervisor responsibilities:
 - a. Evaluate the situation and request PCS to dispatch the necessary personnel.
 - b. Direct any officers, who were inside the building when a device or agent was found, to remain in the containment area.
 - c. If a letter is involved, only those people who had contact with the opened letter need to be isolated. Direct the reporting person to place the letter and envelop in a sealable bag or container to limit further exposure.
 - d. Consider requesting an EOD canine team respond to the incident to conduct a sweep of the staging area for possible explosive devices.
 - e. Notify Intelligence Section of the incident.

- f. If the incident occurs outside of Intelligence Section's normal working hours, notify the Night Chief or the Duty Officer who will recall the Intelligence Section Commander.
 - g. Notify a Tactical Planning Unit supervisor. The Tactical Planning Unit supervisor will evaluate the incident and activate the Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG) if appropriate.
 - 1) Have PCS contact a Tactical Planning Unit supervisor by pager if the incident occurs outside of Tactical Planning Unit's normal working hours.
 - h. Once the TEWG is activated, a TEWG supervisor will notify the FBI/Joint Terrorism Task Force who will respond and investigate the incident.
5. Intelligence Section will coordinate the Police Department's investigation and evaluate the information in terms of providing intelligence to affected units or agencies.